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March 16, 2012

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Q LINK WIRELESS LLC
Compliance Plan
WC Docket No. 09-197 & WC Docket No. 11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission Order *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization* released February 6, 2012, attached please find an original and four (4) copies of Q LINK WIRELESS LLC's Amended Compliance Plan. Q LINK's original Compliance Plan was filed February 10, 2012.

Confidential treatment is requested for data provided in Exhibit C, pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission's rules.¹ The confidential material is clearly marked and is being filed in a separate envelope. The marked information is sensitive company information not available to the public, including competitively sensitive information about Q LINK's financials.

As required by Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules, Q LINK provides the following information regarding its request for confidential treatment:

1. Confidential treatment is requested for Q LINK's financial information.
2. Financial information is contained in Exhibit C of the enclosed Amended Compliance Plan.
3. The information regarding Q LINK's financials is commercially and financially sensitive and is privileged. The information is not generally publicly available.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459.

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Ms. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
March 16, 2012
Page 2

4. The wireless telecommunications industry is highly competitive.² There is competition in the provision of wireless Lifeline service from standard wireless ETCs and the special Lifeline ETCs that have already been designated.
5. The release of this information will cause substantial competitive harm to Q LINK. Disclosure would give competitors access to privileged information that may affect the actions of those competitors. Competitors could utilize such information to extrapolate sensitive data regarding Q LINK's financial condition.
6. Q LINK considers this information to be proprietary and confidential and does not distribute such information to any party outside of the company, with the exception of outside counsel.
7. This information is not available to the public and has not been disclosed to any other third party, with the exception of outside counsel.
8. The information should not be released for public inspection, as it contains proprietary company information that is competitively and financially sensitive. At some point, however, this information will become stale. At minimum, the information should be protected for not less than three years.

For the foregoing reasons, Q LINK respectfully requests that the Commission provide confidential treatment for the identified information.

I have enclosed an extra copy of this letter to be date stamped and returned to me in the enclosed, self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope. If you have any questions or if I may provide you with additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,



Lance J.M. Steinhart
Attorney for Q LINK WIRELESS LLC

Enclosures

cc: Issa Asad

² See generally *Thirteenth Annual CMRS Competition Report*, 24 FCC Rcd 6185 (2009).

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of the)

FCC Mail Room

Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for
Universal Service Support)

WC Docket No. 09-197

Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)

WC Docket No. 11-42

Blanket Forbearance Compliance Plan)

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC'S AMENDED COMPLIANCE PLAN

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March 16, 2012

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	4
II.	BACKGROUND	5
III.	Q LINK WILL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE ORDER.....	5
A.	Access to 911 and E911 Services.....	6
B.	E911-Compliant Handsets	6
C.	Consumer Eligibility and Enrollment	6
1.	One-Per-Household.....	7
2.	Initial and Annual Certification	8
3.	Annual Re-Certification.....	12
D.	Additional Reforms to Eliminate Waste, Fraud and Abuse.....	13
1.	National Lifeline Accountability Database.....	15
2.	Subscriber Usage	16
3.	Marketing & Outreach	17
4.	Audits.....	18
E.	De-Enrollment.....	18
F.	Additional Rule Amendments.....	20
1.	Reporting Requirements	20
2.	Reimbursement from USAC.....	20
3.	Section 54.202 Certifications.....	20
IV.	COMPANY INFORMATION.....	21
A.	Names and Identifiers	21
B.	Financial and Technical Capability	21
C.	Lifeline Offering	22
V.	CONCLUSION.....	23

TABLE OF EXHIBITS

	<u>Exhibit</u>
Sample Lifeline Certification Form	A
Sample Marketing Materials.....	B
Financial Statements	C
Key Management Resumes.....	D
Proposed Lifeline Rates	E
Terms and Conditions	F

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of the)	
)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for)	WC Docket No. 09-197
Universal Service Support)	
)	WC Docket No. 11-42
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	
)	
Blanket Forbearance Compliance Plan)	

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC'S AMENDED COMPLIANCE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC ("Q LINK" or the "Company") is a prepaid wireless telecommunications carrier seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") solely for the purpose of participating in the Lifeline program. Although Section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Act requires an ETC to offer USF-supported services to some extent over its own facilities, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") has forbore from that requirement for carriers that are, or seek to become, Lifeline-only ETCs.¹ Q LINK will avail itself of the FCC's conditional grant of forbearance and, by its attorney, hereby files its Amended Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions of forbearance outlined in the *Order*.² Q LINK filed its original Compliance Plan with the Commission on February 10, 2012. Given the severe economic environment that is forcing many low-income customers to forego wireless service, Q LINK respectfully requests expeditious approval of this

¹ *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012) ("*Order*").

² Although the Company qualifies for and seeks to avail itself of the Commission's grant of forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for purposes of the federal Lifeline program, the Company reserves the right to demonstrate to a state public utilities commission that it provides service using its own facilities in a state for purposes of state universal service funding under state program rules and requirements.

plan so that the Company, upon designation as an ETC, may quickly deploy much-needed Lifeline services to qualified low-income customers.

II. BACKGROUND

In the *Order*, the Commission granted forbearance from the “own-facilities” requirement contained in Section 214(e)(1)(A) for carriers that are, or seek to become, Lifeline-only ETCs, subject to the following conditions:³

(1) the carrier must comply with certain 911 requirements [(a) providing its Lifeline subscribers with 911 and E911 access, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes; (b) providing its Lifeline subscribers with E911-compliant handsets and replacing, at no additional charge to the subscriber, noncompliant handsets of Lifeline-eligible subscribers who obtain Lifeline-supported services; and (c) complying with conditions (a) and (b) starting on the effective date of this Order]; and

(2) the carrier must file, and the Bureau must approve, a compliance plan that: (a) outlines the measures the carrier will take to implement the obligations contained in this Order, including but not limited to the procedures the ETC follows in enrolling a subscriber in Lifeline and submitting for reimbursement for that subscriber from the Fund, materials related to initial and ongoing certifications and sample marketing materials, as well as further safeguards against waste, fraud and abuse the Bureau may deem necessary; and (b) provides a detailed description of how the carrier offers service, the geographic areas in which it offers service, and a description of the carrier’s various Lifeline service plan offerings, including subscriber rates, number of minutes included and types of plans available.

III. Q LINK WILL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE ORDER

Q LINK will comply with all conditions set forth in the *Order*, the provisions of this Compliance Plan, and all laws and regulations governing its provision of Lifeline-supported prepaid wireless service to customers throughout the United States.

³ See *Order* at ¶¶ 368, 373 and 379.

A. Access to 911 and E911 Services

In the *Order*, the Commission requires Q LINK to provide its Lifeline customers with access to 911 and E911 services, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes.⁴ The Commission and consumers are hereby assured that all Q LINK customers will have available access to emergency calling services at the time that Lifeline service is initiated, and that such 911 and E911 access will be available from Q LINK handsets even if the account associated with the handset has no minutes remaining.

B. E911-Compliant Handsets

The Commission also conditioned its grant of forbearance determination on Q LINK providing only E911-compliant handsets to its Lifeline customers.⁵ Q LINK will ensure that all handsets used in connection with the Company's Lifeline service offering are E911-compliant. In the event that an existing Q LINK customer does not have an E911-compliant handset, the Company will replace it with a new 911/E911-compliant handset at no charge to the customer. Any new customer that qualifies for and enrolls in the Lifeline program is assured of receiving a 911/E911-compliant handset as well, free of charge.

C. Consumer Eligibility and Enrollment

Q LINK will certify and verify consumer eligibility for Lifeline in accordance with the requirements set forth in the *Order*. In instances where a state agency or third-party administrator is responsible for the initial determination and annual recertification of consumer eligibility, Q LINK will rely on the state identification or database.⁶ In instances where Q LINK is responsible for the initial determination and annual recertification of consumer eligibility, the Company will follow the procedures set forth below.

⁴ See *Order* at ¶ 373.

⁵ See *id.*

⁶ See *Order* at ¶ 98.

1. One-Per-Household

Q LINK understands that Lifeline is limited to a single subscription per household, and that the Commission has defined household as “any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit.”⁷ Upon receiving an application for Lifeline support, Q LINK will check the duplicates database, once in place, to determine whether an individual at the applicant’s residential address is currently receiving Lifeline-supported service. Q LINK will also search its own internal database of active customers, real-time, pre-sale, to ensure that it does not already provide Lifeline-supported service to someone at that residential address.

If Q LINK determines that an individual at the applicant’s address is currently receiving Lifeline-supported service, Q LINK will take an additional step to ensure that the applicant and the current subscriber are part of different households. To enable applicants to make this demonstration, Q LINK will require applicants to complete and submit to the Company USAC’s one-per-household template, which will contain the following: (1) an explanation of the Commission’s one-per-household rule; (2) a check box that an applicant can mark to indicate that he or she lives at an address occupied by multiple households; (3) a space for the applicant to certify that he or she shares an address with other adults who do not contribute income to the applicant’s household and share in the household’s expenses or benefit from the applicant’s income; and (4) the penalty for a consumer’s failure to make the required one-per-household certification (i.e., de-enrollment).⁸ Q LINK will deny the Lifeline application of any individual residing at the same address as a current Lifeline subscriber who is part of the same household, and will advise the applicant of the basis for the denial.

⁷ See Order at ¶ 74.

⁸ See Order at ¶ 78.

On its certification forms, a sample of which is attached as Exhibit A,⁹ Q LINK will obtain a consumer's permanent residential address (which cannot be a P.O. Box or General Delivery address), unless they only have a temporary address, and, if different, a billing address for the service (which may include a P.O. Box or General Delivery address).¹⁰ Q LINK will inquire on its certification forms whether or not the address provided is temporary.¹¹ If so, Q LINK will notify the consumer that the Company will contact the consumer every 90 days, by phone or text, to verify that he or she continues to rely on that address, and that if the consumer fails to respond within 30 days of Q LINK's attempt to verify the temporary address, he or she will be de-enrolled from the Lifeline program. Also on its certification forms, Q LINK will explain that if the subscriber moves, they must provide their new address to the Company within 30 days of moving.¹² If the subscriber has moved, Q LINK will update the duplicates database, once in place, with the information within 10 business days of receipt of the information.¹³

As detailed below, Q LINK's certification form will clearly explain the one-per-household requirement and all consumers must certify that they receive Lifeline support for a single subscription per household.

2. Initial and Annual Certification

Consumers will be signed up in person or directed, via company literature or advertising, to a toll-free telephone number and to the Company website, which will provide information regarding the Company's Lifeline service plans, including a detailed description of the program and state-specific eligibility criteria. Q LINK's application form will identify that it is a "Lifeline"

⁹ See Exhibit A. The sample certification form remains subject to change, but substantially reflects the content of the Company's application.

¹⁰ See Order at ¶ 85.

¹¹ See Order at ¶ 89.

¹² See Order at ¶ 85.

¹³ See *id.*

application. Q LINK will provide Lifeline-specific training to all personnel, whether employees, agents or representatives, that interacts with actual or prospective customers with respect to obtaining, changing, or terminating Lifeline services.

Q LINK's initial and annual certification forms will conform to the list of requirements provided in the *Order*, Appendix C and with C.F.R. § 54.410(d), as amended. Q LINK's Lifeline certification forms will require each prospective subscriber to provide the following information:

- (i) The subscriber's full name;
- (ii) The subscriber's full residential address;
- (iii) Whether the subscriber's residential address is permanent or temporary;
- (iv) The subscriber's billing address, if different from the subscriber's residential address;
- (v) The subscriber's date of birth;
- (vi) The last four digits of the subscriber's social security number, or the subscriber's Tribal identification number, if the subscriber is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a social security number;
- (vii) If the subscriber is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the program-based criteria, as set forth in § 54.409, the name of the qualifying assistance program from which the subscriber, his or her dependents, or his or her household receives benefits; and
- (viii) If the subscriber is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the income-based criterion, as set forth in § 54.409, the number of individuals in his or her household.

The certification forms will also explain in clear, easily understandable language that:

- (i) Lifeline is a federal government benefit;
- (ii) Lifeline service is available for only one line per household;
- (iii) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses;
- (iv) households are not permitted to receive benefits from multiple providers;
- (v) that violation of the one-per-household requirement would constitute a violation of the Commission's rules and would result in the consumer's de-enrollment from the program, and potentially, prosecution by the United States government; and
- (vi) a Lifeline subscriber may not transfer his or her service to any other individual, including another eligible low-income consumer.

Q LINK will require all consumers, at sign up and annually thereafter, to certify under penalty of perjury that:

- (i) The subscriber meets the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in § 54.409;
- (ii) The subscriber will notify the carrier within 30 days if for any reason he or she no longer satisfies the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if the subscriber no longer meets the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, the subscriber is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of the subscriber's household is receiving a Lifeline benefit.
- (iii) If the subscriber is seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, he or she lives on Tribal lands, as defined in 54.400(e);
- (iv) If the subscriber moves to a new address, he or she will provide that new address to the eligible telecommunications carrier within 30 days;
- (v) If the subscriber provided a temporary residential address, he or she will be required to verify his or her temporary residential address every 90 days;
- (vi) The subscriber's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of his or her knowledge, the subscriber's household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;
- (vii) The information contained in the subscriber's certification form is true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge,
- (viii) The subscriber acknowledges that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (ix) The subscriber acknowledges that the subscriber may be required to re-certify his or her continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and the subscriber's failure to re-certify as to his or her continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of the subscriber's Lifeline benefits pursuant to § 54.405(e)(4).

Applicants will also be required to initial a number of disclosure statements intended to ensure that the applicant understands applicable eligibility requirements. Q LINK will verbally explain the certifications to consumers when they are enrolling in person or over the phone. With respect to those enrolling via the Internet, Q LINK will highlight the certifications that are required, for example, by requiring consumers to acknowledge each certification before moving on to the next field.¹⁴ Consumers who do not complete the application process in person must return the signed application and support documentation to the Company by mail, fax, email, or other electronic transmission. The Company will accept electronic signatures, including Interactive

¹⁴ See Order at ¶ 123.

Voice Response (IVR) recordings, which meet the requirements of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 USC 7001-7006.¹⁵

Q LINK will determine eligibility, at a minimum, utilizing the income and program criteria currently utilized by federal default states (47 C.F.R. § 54.409(a), (b)), as well as any additional state-specific criteria. Prior to enrolling a new subscriber, Q LINK will check the eligibility of applicants first by accessing state or federal social services electronic eligibility databases, where available.¹⁶ If a database is used to establish eligibility, Q LINK will not require documentation of the applicant's participation in a qualifying federal program; instead, Q LINK or its representative will note in its records what specific data was relied upon to confirm the applicant's initial eligibility for Lifeline.¹⁷ However, in states where there is no state administrator, the state commission or other state agency is not making eligibility determinations, and there is no automated means for Q LINK to check electronic databases for eligibility, Q LINK will review documentation to determine eligibility for new subscribers until such time as a qualifying eligibility database is available.¹⁸ Q LINK will require acceptable documentation both for income eligibility and program eligibility. The Company will not retain copies of the documentation but rather will establish policies and procedures to review such documentation and keep accurate records detailing how the applicant demonstrated his or her eligibility.¹⁹ Q LINK understands that it may permit agents or representatives to review documentation of consumer program eligibility for Lifeline, and in such cases Q LINK remains liable for ensuring the agent or representative's compliance with the Lifeline program rules.²⁰

¹⁵ See Order at ¶ 168.

¹⁶ See Order at ¶ 97.

¹⁷ See Order at ¶ 98.

¹⁸ See Order at ¶ 99.

¹⁹ See Order at ¶ 101.

²⁰ See Order at ¶ 110.

3. Annual Re-Certification

Q LINK understands that it must re-certify the eligibility of its entire Lifeline subscriber base as of June 1, 2012 by the end of 2012 and report the results to USAC by January 31, 2013, and the Company may elect to perform this re-certification on a rolling basis throughout the year.²¹ By December 31, 2012, Q LINK will re-certify the continued eligibility of all of its subscribers by contacting them – either in person, in writing, by phone, by text message, by email, or otherwise through the Internet – to confirm their continued eligibility.²² The re-certification notice will explain the actions the customer must take to retain Lifeline benefits, when Lifeline benefits may be terminated, and how to contact Q LINK. Q LINK will obtain a signed certification from the subscriber that meets the certification requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(d), as amended, as detailed in section C.2 above. The Company will provide written notice of impending service termination to subscribers who do not respond to the annual re-certification within 30 days. Q LINK understands that such certifications may be obtained through a written format, an IVR system, or a text message, and will use one or more of such options for its certifications.²³

Alternatively, where a database containing consumer eligibility data is available, Q LINK (or state agency or third-party, where applicable) will instead query the database by the end of 2012 and maintain a record of what specific data was used to re-certify eligibility and the date of re-certification. If a subscriber's address cannot be verified through the state data, Q LINK will contact the subscriber during the annual certification process to obtain a valid address.²⁴ After 2012, Q LINK will continue to annually certify the continued eligibility of its entire subscriber

²¹ See *Order* at ¶ 130.

²² See *id.*

²³ See *Order* at ¶ 132.

²⁴ See *Order* at ¶ 131.

base, either by accessing a qualifying database, or by electing to have USAC administer the self-certification process on the Company's behalf.²⁵

Q LINK will certify its compliance with Commission rules on an annual Lifeline eligible telecommunications carrier certification form and when submitting FCC Forms 497 to USAC for reimbursement. As part of Q LINK's submission of re-certification data pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.416, an officer of the Company will certify annually to USAC:

(1) that the Company has procedures in place to review consumers' documentation of income-and program-based eligibility. In instances where the Company confirms consumer eligibility by relying on official program eligibility data, such as a state or federal database, an officer of the Company will attest to what data the Company uses to confirm consumer eligibility in each state; and

(2) that the Company is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures.²⁶

In addition, Q LINK will certify when seeking reimbursement that the Company has obtained a valid certification form for each customer for whom the Company seeks Lifeline reimbursement.²⁷

D. Additional Reforms to Eliminate Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Q LINK shares the Commission's concern about abuse of the Lifeline program and is thus committed to the safeguards stated herein, with the belief that the procedures it will implement will prevent Company customers from engaging in such abuse of the program, inadvertently or intentionally. In an effort to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, Q LINK has implemented procedures to identify and prevent fraud. The goals are to ensure integrity both in Q LINK, but also in the Lifeline program as a whole.

²⁵ See Order at ¶ 133.

²⁶ See Order at ¶ 126-27.

²⁷ See Order at ¶ 128.

Q LINK has contracted with CGM, LLC of Roswell, Georgia, a Lifeline service bureau, to edit all subsidy request data. CGM will process and validate the Company's subsidy data to prevent: (1) Duplicate Same-Month Lifeline Subsidies (Double Dip): any name/address that is already receiving a lifeline subsidy from the Company will be automatically prevented from receiving a second lifeline subsidy in that same month; and (2) Inactive lines receiving subsidy: CGM's systems compare all subsidy requests to underlying network status to ensure that subsidies are requested only for active lines. Through the processes described herein, Q LINK ensures that it does not over-request from support funds.

For each applicant, Q LINK first validates the applicant's identity via a government issued ID card, passport, etc. Additionally, as mentioned above, Q LINK requires the applicant provide their date of birth (DOB) and last four digits of their social security number (SSN). Requiring DOB and SSN ensures that neither the applicant nor the Company representative can forge certification forms based on false names and addresses. Once the applicant's identity is confirmed, Q LINK verifies that the applicant is eligible to receive the Lifeline subsidy. To do this, Q LINK checks any available eligibility database. If one is not available, the applicant is required to provide proof of participation in one of the Lifeline eligible programs or proof that their annual household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. This prevents ineligible applicants from receiving the Lifeline subsidy.

The address of the applicant is then verified via a USPS/Melissa Database to ensure the address is correct. Simultaneously, the name/address combination is dipped into CGM's aggregate duplicate database to confirm that the applicant is not already receiving a Lifeline subsidy from Q LINK or any other CGM client. This is done through an API connection between Q LINK's provisioning platform and GCM. This allows the Company to ensure the applicant is not receiving

a duplicate subsidy, as well as identify those who share an address with current Q LINK customers. This then prompts the representative to detail the one-per-household rule with the applicant, allowing the applicant to then certify they are head of household. Should Q LINK confirm that a household is receiving more than one subsidy, whether by information obtained from an applicant, USAC's IDR process, or a national database, the customer will be immediately de-enrolled from the Lifeline program.

1. National Lifeline Accountability Database

Q LINK will participate in the National Lifeline Accountability Database, once it is established. As required by the *Order*, Q LINK will provide to the database subscriber name, address, phone number, the last four digits of Social Security number, date of birth, Lifeline service initiation and de-enrollment date (when applicable), and amount of federal Lifeline support being sought for that subscriber.²⁸ Q LINK will provide the information listed above for existing subscribers within 60 days of Commission notice that the database is capable of accepting subscriber information.²⁹

Furthermore, Q LINK will obtain acknowledgement and consent from each of its subscribers that is written in clear, easily understandable language that the subscriber's name, telephone number, and address will be disclosed to USAC and/or its agents for the purpose of verifying that the subscriber does not receive more than one Lifeline benefit.³⁰

Within 30 days following Commission notice that the database is capable of accepting queries, Q LINK will query the database to check if a prospective subscriber is already receiving service from another ETC prior to seeking reimbursement from the Fund.³¹

²⁸ See *Order* at ¶ 189.

²⁹ See *Order* at ¶ 190.

³⁰ See *Order*, Appendix C.

³¹ See *Order* at ¶ 203.

2. Subscriber Usage

Q LINK will not seek reimbursement from the USF for new subscribers until they have personally activated the service, either by initiation and/or actual use of the service by the subscriber. Furthermore, Q LINK will not seek reimbursement from the USF for inactive subscribers who have not used the service for a consecutive 60-day period.³² Q LINK will notify its subscribers at service initiation about the non-transferability of the phone service, its usage requirements, and the de-enrollment and deactivation that will result following non-usage in any 60-day period of time.³³ An account will be considered active if during any 60-day period the authorized subscriber does at least one of the following: makes a monthly payment; purchases minutes from the Company to add to an existing pre-paid Lifeline account; completes an outbound call; answers an incoming call from anyone other than the Company, its representative, or agent; or affirmatively responds to a direct contact from the Company confirming that he or she wants to continue.³⁴ Q LINK utilizes tracking software to notify the customer if the customer has not used their service for more than 30 or 60 consecutive days. Furthermore, a third party contractor validates the Company's subsidy data to prevent a subsidy request for customers that are inactive under the Company's non-usage policy.³⁵ After notification, if the customer fails to use their service, the customer is automatically de-enrolled pursuant to the procedures outlined in section E below. Q LINK will continue to comply with applicable public safety, including transmitting 911 calls to the appropriate PSAP even if the Company is no longer providing Lifeline service to a consumer.³⁶

³² See Order at ¶ 257.

³³ See *id.*

³⁴ See Order at ¶ 261.

³⁵ CGM, LLC is currently the Company's third party contractor.

³⁶ See Order at ¶ 262. 911 transmissions will actually be performed by the Company's underlying facilities-based CMRS provider.

3. Marketing & Outreach

Q LINK will implement the measures outlined herein to help ensure that only eligible consumers enroll in the program and that those consumers are fully informed of the limitations of the program, so as to prevent duplicative or otherwise ineligible service as well as other forms of waste, fraud, and abuse. Q LINK will explain in clear, easily understood language the following disclosures in all marketing materials related to the supported service:³⁷ (1) that only eligible consumers may enroll in the program; (2) that the program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service; (3) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses; and (4) that Lifeline is a government benefit program. Q LINK will prepare printed material that will explain the documentation necessary for enrollment, and the details of the Company's plans, and will provide such information on its website. Such material and website information, as well as its application, will make clear that consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.³⁸ For broadcast advertisements and outdoor signage, such as billboards, and any other situation in which inclusion of documentation information and warnings against willful false statements are impractical, Q LINK, will provide the URL link for the information disclosure page on its website. Additionally, Q LINK will disclose the company name under which it does business.³⁹ In order to reinforce the limitation of one Lifeline phone per household, the following statement, or words to the same effect, will

³⁷ See Exhibit B for sample marketing materials. The Company understands the term "marketing materials" includes materials in all media, including but not limited to print, audio, video, Internet (including email, web, and social networking media), and outdoor signage, that describe the Lifeline-supported service offering, including application and certification forms. *See Order* at ¶ 275.

³⁸ *See Order* at ¶ 275.

³⁹ *See id.*

appear in the Company's marketing materials and website (www.qlinkwireless.com) in a conspicuous place, in bold font and in an offsetting color to ensure it is not overlooked:

Lifeline support is limited to one per household on wireline or wireless service.

4. Audits

If Q LINK draws \$5 million or more in the aggregate on an annual basis from the low-income program, as determined on a holding company basis taking into account all operating companies and affiliates, the Company will hire an independent licensed certified public accounting firm to conduct a biennial audit according to government accounting standards to assess Q LINK's overall compliance with the program's requirements.⁴⁰ Q LINK will comply with applicable rules regarding the dissemination of audit findings to the Commission, USAC, and relevant state and Tribal governments within 30 days upon issuance.⁴¹

E. De-Enrollment

Q LINK will de-enroll consumers from the Company's Lifeline program in the following instances, according to C.F.R. § 54.405(e):

Ineligibility. Any subscriber who indicates that he or she is receiving more than one Lifeline-supported service per household, or neglects to make the required one-per-household certification on his or her certification form, will be de-enrolled from Lifeline pursuant to the process for resolving duplicative Lifeline subscriptions described in section 54.405(e)(2).⁴²

If a customer does not respond to the Company's annual verification survey within 30 days, or if Q LINK has reasonable basis to believe that the subscriber no longer meets the Lifeline-qualifying criteria (including instances where a subscriber informs the Company or the state that

⁴⁰ See Order at ¶ 291.

⁴¹ See Order at ¶ 294.

⁴² See Order at ¶ 122.

he or she is ineligible for Lifeline), Q LINK will provide a written notice of impending service termination to the subscriber and then give the subscriber 30 days after the date of the letter to demonstrate that his or her Lifeline service should not be terminated.⁴³ Similarly, Q LINK will de-enroll a subscriber if they fail to respond to the Company's attempt to verify a temporary address within 30 days.⁴⁴

Duplicative Support. Subject to USAC's Duplicate Resolution Process and anticipated Duplicate Scrubbing Process,⁴⁵ Q LINK will de-enroll a subscriber within 5 business days if the Company is informed by USAC that the subscriber is receiving Lifeline service from another ETC or that more than one member of a subscriber's household is receiving Lifeline service.

Non-Usage. Q LINK will monitor all customers to ensure that they in fact have usage on their account within a 60-day period. Q LINK will de-enroll any subscriber that has not used the Company's Lifeline service for 60 consecutive days, as discussed in section IV.B above. Q LINK will send the subscriber a 30-day termination letter, using clear, easily understood language, notifying the subscriber that failure to use the Lifeline service within the 30-day cure period will result in service termination for non-usage. The subscriber will be able to confirm that they want to continue receiving their Lifeline service. Q LINK will update the national database, once in place, within one business day of de-enrolling a subscriber for non-use and will submit a non-usage de-enrollment report annually to USAC.⁴⁶ Q LINK will not seek reimbursement from the USF during the 30-day cure period unless the subscriber confirms they want to continue service.

⁴³ See *id.* In states that have dispute resolution procedures applicable to Lifeline termination, the Company will comply with the state requirements.

⁴⁴ See *Order* at ¶ 89.

⁴⁵ See *Order* at ¶ 214-16.

⁴⁶ See *Order* at ¶ 257.

F. Additional Rule Amendments

1. Reporting Requirements

Q LINK will report all information required by section 54.422, as it may heretofore be amended. This includes the names of the Company's holding company, operating companies and affiliates, and any branding ("doing-business-as company" or brand designation), and provide to the Commission and USAC general information regarding the terms and conditions of the Lifeline plans for voice telephony service offered specifically for low income consumers through the program offered during the previous year, including the number of minutes provided, and whether there are additional charges to the consumer for service, including minutes of use and/or toll calls.⁴⁷

2. Reimbursements from USAC

In seeking reimbursement for Lifeline, Q LINK will comply with the requirements of C.F.R § 54.407, as revised by the *Order*.⁴⁸ Q LINK will certify when seeking reimbursement that the Company has obtained a valid certification form for each consumer for whom the Company seeks Lifeline reimbursement;⁴⁹ and the Company will seek reimbursement for actual lines served, not projected lines.⁵⁰

3. Section 54.202 Certifications

Q LINK certifies the following in accordance with newly amended C.F.R. § 54.202: (1) Q LINK will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support that it receives; (2) Q LINK is able to remain functional in emergency situations; and (3) Q LINK will satisfy applicable

⁴⁷ See *Order* at ¶ 296, 390. Section 153 of the Communications Act defines "affiliate" as "a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person."

⁴⁸ See *Order* page 221.

⁴⁹ See *Order* at ¶ 128.

⁵⁰ See *Order* at ¶ 302.

consumer protection and service quality standards.

IV. COMPANY INFORMATION

Q LINK is a Limited Liability Company organized in the State of Delaware on August 25, 2011. Q LINK will provide prepaid wireless telecommunications services by using the Sprint Nextel (“Sprint”) network on a wholesale basis to offer nationwide service. Sprint is a nationwide carrier that provides wholesale capacity on its wireless network to wireless providers like Q LINK. Q LINK will obtain from Sprint the network infrastructure and wireless transmission facilities to allow Q LINK to operate as a Mobile Virtual Network Operator (“MVNO”). Q LINK was designated as an ETC in Maryland on December 21, 2011. Q LINK does not currently provide service in any state.

A. Names and Identifiers

Q LINK is Q LINK WIRELESS LLC, often known as just Q LINK or Q LINK WIRELESS in marketing and advertising materials.

B. Financial and Technical Capability

Q LINK is financially and technically capable of providing Lifeline-supported services.⁵¹ Q LINK will provide service to both Lifeline and non-Lifeline customers. Q LINK has not been subject to enforcement action or ETC revocation proceedings in any state. Q LINK is financially able to provide Lifeline-supported services and will not rely exclusively on USF disbursements to operate.⁵² Furthermore, the senior management of Q LINK has great depth in the telecommunications industry and offers extensive telecommunications business technical and managerial expertise to the Company.⁵³ Q LINK will also rely upon the managerial and technical

⁵¹ See Order at ¶ 387.

⁵² See Exhibit C for the Company’s Managing Member’s Financial Statements. This information is **CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY** and is being filed under seal as such.

⁵³ See Exhibit D for key management resumes.

expertise of its underlying carrier Sprint.

C. Lifeline Offering

Q LINK will offer its Lifeline service in the states where it is designated as an ETC and throughout the coverage area of its underlying carrier Sprint. As summarized in Exhibit E attached hereto, the Company's Lifeline offering will provide customers with the option to choose between three (3) Lifeline Plans⁵⁴ that best meets their needs:

1. Plan 1: 68 Monthly Minutes. Under Plan 1, eligible customers enjoy 68 anytime minutes that rollover and free international long distance.⁵⁵ Text messaging is at the rate of one-third of one minute (3 texts = 1 minute).
2. Plan 2: 125 Monthly Minutes. Under Plan 2, eligible customers enjoy 125 anytime minutes that rollover. Text messaging is at the rate of one minute (1 text = 1 minute).
3. Plan 3: 250 Monthly Minutes. Under Plan 3, eligible customers enjoy 250 anytime minutes. Minutes do not rollover. Text messaging is at the rate of one minute (1 text = 1 minute).

Customers have the capability of purchasing additional bundles of minutes in denominations as low as \$9.99, \$19.99, \$29.99, and \$59.99.⁵⁶ Airtime replenishment cards will be made available at retail outlets frequented by low-income customers throughout the Company's Service Area. In addition to free voice services, all of Q LINK's Lifeline plans will include a free handset and the following Custom Calling features: Caller ID, Call Waiting, and Voicemail. Q LINK does not impose burdensome credit checks or long-term service contracts

⁵⁴ Q LINK's Lifeline Plans vary from state to state in accordance with state requirements or Tribal offerings; the three Lifeline plans outlined in this compliance plan are the offerings available in most states. Please see the Company's website (www.qlinkwireless.com) for more detailed information regarding plans available in each state.

⁵⁵ If you are on Plan 1, there is no additional charge for international long distance to countries designated at www.qlinkwireless.com.

⁵⁶ \$9.99 = 50 minutes, \$19.99 = 120 minutes, \$29.99 = 200 minutes, and \$59.99 = 450 minutes.


on its prepaid customers. Customers are not bound by a local calling area requirement; all Q LINK plans come with domestic long distance at no extra per minute charge and exceptional nationwide digital coverage on the Nationwide Sprint PCS Network. Calls to 911 emergency services are always free, regardless of service activation or availability of minutes. Calls to Q Link customer service are also free. Q LINK has attached as Exhibit F its Lifeline terms and conditions of service. The terms and conditions of the Company's plans can also be found at www.qlinkwireless.com.

V. CONCLUSION

Q LINK submits that its Compliance Plan fully satisfies the conditions of forbearance set forth in the Commission's *Order*. Implementation of the procedures described herein will promote public safety and should ensure that Lifeline customers have access to 911 and E911 services while safeguarding against misuse of the Company's Lifeline services. Accordingly, Q LINK respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve its Compliance Plan so that the Company may begin providing the benefits of much-needed Lifeline service to qualifying low-income consumers as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Q LINK WIRELESS LLC



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